

Newsletter published by the SHIBA HelpLine Regional Managers, for time-sensitive health insurance news. Please pass the information on to others!

***The latest headlines:***

**People can still use Medicare's "Personal Plan Finder" (online Part D enrollment tool) at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov):** However, the tool does not tell clients if they are eligible for a special enrollment period. The drug company determines eligibility based on guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Clients enrolling after May 15 may expect a follow-up call from the drug company to determine if they are eligible for a special enrollment period. **If a client is not eligible for a special enrollment period** – they will receive an ineligible enrollment letter telling them they must wait until November to reapply for Part D drug coverage. However, folks who receive extra help through the Social Security Administration (SSA) may enroll immediately. For more information, contact SSA at 1-800-772-1213 or on the Web at [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)

**Veterans Affairs (VA) warns veterans about identity theft:** The VA announced that someone stole the names, social security numbers, dates of birth, and some disability ratings for 26.5 million veterans and their families. Because identity thieves could use this information, the VA recommends that all veterans (or families of veterans) monitor their personal information for signs of suspicious activity. If veterans discover problems, the VA recommends they check with the three major credit bureaus: Equifax, 1-800-525-6285; Experian, 1-888-EXPERIAN; and TransUnion, 1-800-680-7289. For more information, visit the VA Web site at <http://www.firstgov.gov/veteransinfo.shtml> or call VA Customer Service at 1-800-827-1000.

**Local epilepsy foundation offers help with medications:** Physicians or patients who need help obtaining epilepsy medications, can visit the Epilepsy Foundation Northwest Web site at [www.epilepsynw.org](http://www.epilepsynw.org) or via 1-800-752-3509.

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